



FUTURE OF NC FORUM

DECEMBER 5, 2017

RALEIGH, NC

Ted Abernathy
Managing Partner
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Born in Dallas, NC, Ted received his bachelor's degree from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill; his Master's from Johns Hopkins University, is a graduate of the Economic Development Institute and is an Eisenhower Fellow for global economics.

Ted is the economic development policy advisor to the Southern Governors Association, and the Managing Partner of Economic Leadership LLC, a consultancy that is currently working in more than a dozen states to develop economic strategies. Ted has 35 years of experience in directing economic development and workforce development programs. In the past two years Ted has worked with state Chambers of Commerce in North Carolina, Arkansas, Missouri and Kentucky to develop economic development plans and with another dozen regions, counties and organizations on strategic plans.

From 2008-2013, Ted was the Executive Director of the Southern Growth Policies Board, a 42-year old public policy think tank that provided economic development research, strategy and marketing advice, to states and communities across the South. Before coming to Southern Growth, Ted was a practicing economic developer for 28 years. Most recently, he served as Executive Vice President and COO for the Research Triangle Regional Partnership. During his eight years directing RTRP's operation he worked with hundreds of clients and helped generate 65,000 new jobs and almost \$10 billion in investment.

Ted's current projects include developing a new rural economic strategy for the North Carolina Chamber of Commerce, developing economic development plans for the 8 states that comprise the Mississippi Delta, creating new economic strategies in North Carolina for the Research Triangle Regional Partnership and the Piedmont Triad Partnership, conducting a national citizen input process on building community economic vitality, developing best practices in manufacturing and innovation for the U.S. Economic Development Administration and helping the Organization for International Investment create an economic development coalition to better attract foreign investment and helping the Missouri Chamber Foundation build a more economically competitive Missouri.

As a nationally known economic futurist, Ted speaks to about 100 groups annually on topics ranging from global trends to state and community economic competitiveness.